

MINUTES  
POLYSOMNOGRAPHY PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
May 17, 2011

A regular meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners' Polysomnography Professional Standards Committee was held at the Health Related Boards, 227 French Landing, HRB Conference Room, Nashville, TN 37243.

Members Present: Donna J. Lovitt, PSGP;  
Bryan P. Hughes, PSGP;  
Roxanne M. Valentino, M.D.;  
Madelyn Cunningham, Consumer Member

Member Absent: Kristin W. Lester, PSGP;  
Donald Samples, Ed. D;  
Natasha C. Webb, PSGP;

Staff Present: Rosemarie Otto, Executive Director,  
Marsha Arnold, Unit Manager,  
E. Ashley Carter, Advisory Attorney,  
Kimberly Hodge, Administrator

Present by Telephone: Abbey Ware, Applicant

The Committee convened at 12:00 p.m. A quorum was present and Dr. Valentino, the Chair, called the meeting to order with a roll call.

**Applicant Interview**

The Polysomnography Committee convened to further consider the application of Abbey Ware. The Committee re-reviewed all documents that Ms. Ware provided when she met with the Committee on May 10, 2011. At that meeting the voiced their concerns regarding Ms. Ware's past substance abuse and referred her to the Tennessee Medical Foundation (TMF) to obtain a referral for a current evaluation. The Committee authorized administrative staff to issue Ms. Ware's license if her evaluation was negative for substance abuse and both consultants, Drs. Arnold and Valentino concurred. Subsequently, Ms. Ware contacted the Committee's administrative office and indicated that she was unable to comply with the Committee's request because she could not afford the recommended evaluation. Further, she indicated that she was being asked to travel to Memphis which would require her to be away from her young family. Mr. Hughes asked if there were other options for an evaluation closer to home and less expensive. Ms. Ashley Carter, advisory attorney for the Committee reminded Ms. Ware that when the Committee requires an evaluation prior to licensure, it is the applicant's responsibility to make every effort to comply. Ms. Otto suggested that Ms. Ware contact her husband's insurance company to determine if they cover evaluations for substance abuse. If the insurance company covers the evaluation, then Ms. Otto suggested that Ms.

Ware contact the board's administrative office with the name of the approved facility or healthcare provider so Drs. Arnold and Valentino could evaluate their adequacy. Ms. Carter added that it might be helpful if Ms. Ware continued to consult with the TMF to be certain that the evaluation she eventually received compared favorably with the TMF standards. Ms. Carter also reminded Ms. Ware that she still could withdraw her application if her personal and financial situation barred her from obtaining the requested evaluation. Ms. Ware did not want to withdraw her application choosing instead to explore using her husband's insurance.

Ms. Cunningham made a motion reiterating the Committee's initial determination that Ms. Ware obtain a current evaluation to determine if she has a substance abuse problem. Ms. Lovitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hughes made a motion that upon receipt of a favorable evaluation (reviewed by Drs. Arnold and Valentino), the administrative staff would be authorized to issue the license. Ms. Lovitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**These minutes were ratified by the Committee September 13, 2011.**